

REMARKS

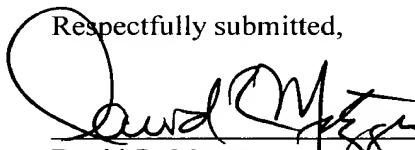
Claims 1-15 were pending and under consideration in the application.

In the Office Action of December 16, 2004, Claims 12-15 are allowed. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sawamoto* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,426,566).

Without conceding the merits of the rejection and without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application to pursue the rejected claims and/or a divisional application to pursue non-elected claims, Claims 1-11 have been cancelled leaving only allowed claims 12-15.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now in condition for allowance . Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 32,919)
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